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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY India

SUBJECT Reactions to Pakistani-US Negotiations

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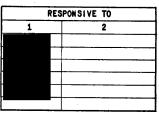
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- 1. Indian public opinion is much aroused about the plan of a US-Pakistani agreement. Prime Minister Nehru, despite his relatively moderate public statements is very bitter about it. In his view, the arrangement has been under preparation for a long time and represents a continuation of the old British policy of setting the Moslems against India on the Indian subcontinent. Nehru and the Congress leaders are convinced that the partition of India would never have taken place if it had not been prepared by British imperialist policy, and that the division of the subcontinent is contrary to geopolitical reality. Nehru considers it one of his greatest achievements to have made the Congress Party accept Pakistan's final independence, but the latest development has reheated Hindu bitterness against the imperialist West.
- 2. Sheik Abdullah was removed some months ago in Kashmir with formal abstention from interference by India in accordance with Nehru's wishes. Many reasons have been publicly given for Abdullah's removal, including a statement that he had fallen too much under Communist influence. The truth, however, is that he was removed not because of his subservience to Communist influences (which since then have not become weaker in Kashmir), but because it was believed that Abdullah, with US encouragement, intended to establish Kashmir as an independent buffer state, a possibility regarded as an outright danger to Nehru's policy of maintaining Indian neutrality. No one believes in Delhi that Pakistan will ever fight against Russia or China, or even permit the United States to use Pakistani territory in case of war, but it is a general conviction that Pakistan will use the military and economic assistance from the U.S. for staging armed intervention into Kashmir and other Indian border provinces.

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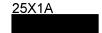
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3. This development, with many other pending projects, contributes to the Indian desire to seek realignment with other Asian powers. In New Delhi, the formalization of India's relations to Burma, Indonesia, and Ceylon is now under consideration, aimed at establishing an Asiatic bloc of neutrals, to resist Western interference in Asian affairs. There also is an old project of political liaison between these neutrals and Communist China, and still another project, for a later period, of a Pan-Asian Conference. Nehru is pressed by his advisers on foreign affairs to move in this direction, but he still thinks that time has not yet come for such initiatives. At this moment, he is especially interested in Indochina. If Ho Chi Minh could achieve an armistice with France, this result would considerably improve the chances of realignment of the anti-Western Asian nations. Nehru hopes that this group may eventually gain so much weight that countries regarded as being in the Western orbit (Japan in the first place) would feel attracted to this neutral

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